



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
BY**

ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR

***SUPPORTING*
HB-5465, AAC THE STATE'S REGULATORY AND PERMITTING PROCESS
BEFORE THE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
MARCH 15, 2012**

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees. NFIB membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to "Main Street" small businesses to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, I offer the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut strongly supports HB-5465, An Act Concerning The State's Regulatory And Permitting Process. Passage of this legislation will go a long way toward ensuring a better regulatory environment and a better working relationship between state agencies and small businesses in Connecticut. Most importantly, Section 1 of the bill which calls for a cost-benefit analysis and subsequent consideration of regulatory impact minimization efforts for small businesses will go a long way toward creating regulatory relief for those businesses which are impacted the most. In addition, further streamlining the state's permitting processes, particularly for environmental-related permits, certainly help foster a more business-friendly reputation for the state of Connecticut.

In the 2008 edition of "*Small Business Problems & Priorities*" by the NFIB Research Foundation, "Unreasonable Government Regulations" ranked as the 6th greatest problem of concern from small business owners, up from its 9th position in 2004. Much like taxes, this generic problem category costs small businesses in several ways: understanding and keeping up-to-date with compliance requirements, costs of consultants, employee time, management time, direct outlays, lost productivity and/or sales, forgone opportunities, etc. The federal government alone proposes approximately 150 new rules every year that cost business owners over \$100 million per rule in compliance costs. Adding state and local laws and regulations

that sometimes duplicate federal regulations, merely raise the cost and frustration level for small business. A comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of state agency regulations and specific attempts to minimize the regulator impact on small businesses is sorely needed. Therefore NFIB/Connecticut strongly supports the measures contained in HB-5465 and applauds the Chairs and members of the Commerce Committee for their willingness to consider this important measure. It is bills like HB-5465, as well as bills such as SB-222 which calls for the establishment of a regulatory fairness board, that are positive pieces of legislation that would help engage the many impacted small business owners in the process of regulatory reform in Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB urges lawmakers to support HB-5465.